

Maccabi's Sherf —
Fresh out
of ideas

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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Sharir in spot over appeal on Nakash

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Justice Minister Avraham Sharir faces the unenviable task today of persuading his ministry's attorneys — who vigorously opposed his decision not to extradite William Nakash to France — to defend his position before the High Court of Justice.

Responding to a petition by Citizens Rights Movement MKs Shulamit Aloni and Dedi Zucker, Justice Aharon Barak issued on Friday afternoon an interim injunction prohibiting the release of Nakash from jail. Barak also gave Sharir seven days to explain why he shouldn't rescind his decision not to extradite Nakash.

Nakash, who is wanted by the French for the 1983 murder of an Arab in the town of Besançon, was in the process of being discharged from Tel Mond Prison near Netanya when news of the court order arrived.

Scores of journalists and television crews had been waiting outside the prison gates for Nakash's release. His wife Rina plans to hold a vigil for her husband's release in front of the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem this morning.

Sources in the Justice Ministry said last night that Nakash would have been discharged from prison before Barak's injunction, which was issued at 3 p.m., but for a mix-up at the Justice Ministry.

A three-judge High Court panel will decide today or tomorrow whether Nakash will remain in jail until the end of the hearings on his case.

Attorney-General Yosef Harish, who has been the most vocal of Sharir's opponents in the Nakash affair, told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that "we are willing and ready to represent the minister before the high court." But, he added, that "in this, as in all cases, the State Attorney's office and myself will first have to evaluate the acceptability of Sharir's reasons for the decision."

The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that despite the many hours of deliberations on Nakash that Sharir held with Justice Ministry officials, the subject of a possible high court petition and the defence of the minister's decision was not raised or discussed.

Sources close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last night that Shamir will reject Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsuri's request to discuss the Nakash affair at today's cabinet meeting.

Tsuri consulted with Harish and other lawyers before presenting his motion to the cabinet secretariat on

(Continued on Back Page)



An Arab woman throws a stone at a soldier after the imposition of a curfew in Ramallah yesterday. (Brutmann, Media)

Youth killed; 70 persons held

Wave of incidents sweeps West Bank

By JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A 14-year-old Palestinian youth was killed and more than 70 others were arrested over the weekend as a wave of disturbances swept the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

Six Israelis were hurt in the disturbances, including a 5-year-old boy who was lightly hurt when stones were thrown at a bus near Jerusalem's Old City last night.

Beefed up security forces were deployed throughout the territories last night to prevent further violence. A military spokesman said troops acted yesterday "with restraint" in quelling the disturbances.

The incidents came in the aftermath of the deaths Thursday of two Bir Zeit University students in clashes with IDF troops. The university has been closed for three days in mourning for the students.

"The wave of incidents is unusual but is not a major outbreak. Most of the population avoids such activity. We have absolutely no intention of changing our policy," Shmuel Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, said last night. He attributed the unrest to the recent anniversary of the 1947 UN partition vote on Palestine, the PLO-Shiite battles in Lebanon, and the deaths at Bir Zeit.

The 14-year-old youth was killed on Friday after a patrol at the Balata

refugee camp near Nablus was attacked by stone-throwing demonstrators, an army spokesman said. Troops who pursued the protesters shouted warnings and fired in the air before shooting at the legs of the demonstrators, the spokesman said.

The dead youth, identified by Palestinian sources as Majid Abu Dura, was brought to Rafidia hospital in Nablus. A four-hour curfew was clamped on Balata as security forces searched the area.

Late Friday night the two Bir Zeit students killed last week were buried under tight security in Gaza and Khan Yunis. Only immediate family members were permitted to attend the funerals.

The bodies of the dead students were found early Friday at the Makassed hospital in East Jerusalem and transferred for autopsy to the Abu Kabir forensic institute. The bodies had been abducted from Ramallah hospital, and Bir Zeit officials said the action was taken to give the dead "a dignified burial."

The army has traditionally banned large public funerals for Palestinians killed by security forces.

Preliminary military investigations of the fatal incidents at Bir Zeit and Balata found that troops had followed military open-fire ordinances, and that only officers died from the shooting at the university. A further investigation of the Bir Zeit killings

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Unifil man killed; talk of Irish pullout

By DVORAH GETZLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The death yesterday of an Irish Unifil soldier in a clash with soldiers of the South Lebanese Army seems certain to cause the Irish government to reconsider its membership in the international force, informed political sources in Dublin told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

The matter is sure to be high on the agenda of Defence Minister Paddy O'Toole, due in Lebanon tomorrow, the sources said. The Irish contingent of Unifil has lost 20 men since 1978.

The Irish soldier was hit yesterday when SLA soldiers fired on his position near Tyre. He was taken by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa, where he later died.

A spokesman at the Irish force's headquarters in Dublin named the dead man as private William O'Brien, 25, who had been in the Lebanon for only a month. He was married with a four-year-old son.

"Any decision to pull out, or curtail our participation, is of course not just a matter for the Defence Ministry, but for the government," the ministry spokesman said.

The French government has severely curtailed its contingent, and O'Toole's visit, coming hard on the heels yesterday's fatal clash, could herald yet another stage in the whitening down of the UN force.

Meanwhile, the SLA beat back an attack on one of its positions in the northern part of the security zone.

The "large force" of attackers from an unnamed force fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades into the SLA position near the village of Beit Ya'oun. One of the defenders was lightly wounded.

Other SLA positions in the area were hit with mortar fire and RPGs at the same time, in an apparent effort to prevent them from sending reinforcements to aid the Beit Ya'oun stronghold.

Many die in Iraqi air strike

TEHRAN. — More than 100 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed in three Iraqi air raids on Ahwaz in southwestern Iran.

Baghdad Radio reported that six other "vital targets" were bombed near Ahwaz, including a railway station and bridge.

The radio also said that Iraqi jets flew more than 1,000 kms to bomb the Middle East's largest power plant.

More shelters set alight

Three bus-stop shelters were torched early Friday morning in Jerusalem, one of them next to the Knesset. Police believe that the incidents are in retaliation for the Jerusalem magistrate's court decision to keep two yeshiva students, arrested on Wednesday while allegedly defacing a shelter, in custody until the end of their trial.

The students, Pinhas Keller and Haim Gortlieb, are from the militant anti-Zionist yeshiva Toldot Aharon near Mea She'arim. They were convicted of similar offences several months ago and released with suspended sentences.

17 die on roads

Seventeen people were killed and 60 injured in 65 road accidents last week.

Seven of the fatalities were pedestrians, including one minor. Forty-eight of the injured were pedestrians, including 15 minors.

President says 'third country' proposed Iran deal; officials claim it was Israel

Reagan admits errors but defends policy

By WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON. — President Ronald Reagan yesterday acknowledged for the first time that "mistakes were made" in the implementation of his overtures toward Iran.

Although sounding a conciliatory tone, the president again defended the original purpose of his decision, explaining that the Middle East "is critically important to our nation's security."

The Iran initiative was first proposed by "a third country," Reagan said flatly. He did not name that country.

But White House officials later in the day said the president was clearly referring to Israel and to the first round of meetings on Iran held in the late spring of 1985 by then national security adviser Robert McFarlane and David Kimche, then foreign ministry director-general.

"When word came to me that individuals in Iran, including some members of the government there, had asked through an intermediary in a third country for a meeting with a representative of our government, I said, 'yes,'" the president said in his weekly radio address yesterday.

"And even though these were responsible elements in Iran that might be able to assist us in stopping the violence and possibly helping us get back the hostages being held in Lebanon, there was a risk involved," he continued. "But I believed then and believe now that there was a greater risk in doing nothing — of not trying. So I gave the order to proceed."

Israeli officials and pro-Israeli lobbyists yesterday once again expressed their concern that Reagan appeared to be focusing attention on "Israel's role in initiating the ill-fated strategy towards Iran, including the subsequent decision to sell it U.S. weapons."

Reagan, in his radio address, insisted that the original decision led to "some notable success." He said there was "some reduction in terrorism and three of our hostages were released — one at a time — and others were about to follow."

He said, however, that "someone in the government of Iran leaked information about our contacts with Iran to a newspaper in Lebanon," which effectively ended the initiative.

In justifying the original policy, Reagan cited the desire to end the Iran-Iraq war, to prevent Soviet expansionism, to halt terrorism, and to help gain release of American hostages.

He then distinguished between those policy goals and their implementation. "It's obvious that the execution of these policies was flawed and mistakes were made," he said. "Let me just say that it was not my intent to do business with Khomeini, to trade weapons for hostages, or to undercut our policy on anti-terrorism."

Reagan continued: "I am deeply disappointed that this initiative has resulted in such a controversy, and I regret that it has caused such concern and consternation. But I pledge to you I will set things right."



President Reagan shouts an emphatic "No" to a reporter who asked if White House chief of staff Donald Regan would be requested to resign over the Iran arms deal. (AFP)

He went on to defend his own actions since the controversy erupted, especially after disclosure that some of the profits from the Iran arms sales went to the rebels in Nicaragua.

"We will cooperate fully with the Congress as they undertake their proper review," he said. "If illegal acts were undertaken in the implementation of our policy, those who did so will be brought to justice. If actions in implementing my policies were taken without my authorization, knowledge or concurrence, this will be exposed and appropriate steps will be implemented. I will continue to make all the facts known surrounding this matter."

"We live in a country that requires we operate within rules and laws — all of us," he said. "Just cause and deep concern and noble ends can never be reason enough to justify improper actions or excessive means."

The tone of Reagan's address yesterday was in marked contrast to his bitter remarks last week in a *Time* magazine interview. At that time, he blamed the press for his problems, noting that there was "bitter bile in my throat."

McFarlane, meanwhile, is reported to have told the Senate Intelligence Committee last week that Reagan gave advance approval to Israel's sale of arms to Iran in August of 1985, despite assertions by Attorney-General Edwin Meese to the contrary.

The idea of supplying arms was raised by Kimche during two meetings in July and August, according to McFarlane.

The *New York Times* yesterday reported that Kimche won Reagan's approval to ship 500 TOW anti-tank missiles to Iran by telling McFarlane that Israel believed the action would lead to the freeing of all the American hostages in Lebanon.

Quoting U.S. and Israeli sources, the report said that the possibility of all the hostages being freed — seven were then being held — was particularly appealing to Reagan.

In particular, Reagan and the CIA

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

Chirac flies back from London for crisis meeting

Thirty thousand march in Paris after student's death in clash

By MICHEL ZLOTOWSKI
Jerusalem Post Correspondent and Agencies

PARIS. — Thirty thousand angry students marched last night from the Sorbonne University to a hospital where a 22-year-old student died after a police beating.

As police and demonstrators clashed in the capital, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac flew back from London to chair a crisis meeting of senior ministers on how to tackle France's largest student protest movement since 1968.

Paris was cut in two by yesterday's demonstration. The heart of the capital was sealed off by security

forces as the marchers left the hospital and converged on city hall.

Before leaving the hospital area, students attacked the nearby 13th precinct police station.

Groups of young men tore down iron rails protecting trees and dug up paving stones which they threw at security forces who were trying to prevent them from forcing their way into the police station.

Security forces tried to keep the demonstrators from rallying at the city hall, but to no avail.

Clashes between police and students were still going on late last night in the narrow streets of the city centre.

Streets along the march route had emptied yesterday afternoon before the demonstration began, as nervous Parisians sought to stay clear of trouble.

Chirac left the closing ceremonies of the European Community summit meeting in London to take charge of the crisis. He arrived at his office early yesterday evening for the emergency meeting.

One decision he faced was whether to accept the resignation of his minister for research and higher education, Alain Devaquet, author of the university reform bill which sparked the student protests. Deva-

(Continued on Back Page)

Present system is too cumbersome even for the authorities

How the taxman means to lighten the burden

By PINHAS LANDAU
Post Finance Reporter

The Israeli taxpayer's burden is second to none — and that's official. The Bank of Israel has calculated that taxes took 58 per cent of GNP in the first half of this year, leaving the previous front runners, Denmark and Sweden, back at the 50 per cent mark. Individuals and companies are unable to carry this burden, and the result is bankruptcy, disinvestment and emigration.

This is the background to the new found determination to reform Israel's cumbersome tax system — which is so complex and confused, having been built layer on layer over the years, that even the tax authorities admit they can't understand it.

"You might be surprised to hear that my department is pushing hard for tax reform," deputy commissioner of income tax Avraham Zarfat told reporters last week. "It will help the assessors as much as it helps the assessee."

All the reform options are based on two key principles of taxation — simplicity and equality. These two characteristics are totally lacking in the current system, and are the cause of widespread cheating, evasion and plain incomprehension. As with the recently passed U.S. tax reform bill, the

idea will be to have lower tax rates, fewer tax bands, and a much broader tax base. What do these slogans mean in practice?

Lower tax rates: The top personal rate will come down from 60 per cent to 50 per cent or less, while the tax threshold, meaning the point at which a person is liable for tax, will rise for the first band, and probably for each subsequent band. In other words, one will have to earn more money to be in any given tax bracket, compared to the present system, and the highest band or two will be abolished altogether.

The object is to make it worth people's while to work. The present structure is widely viewed as a major disincentive to work by the middle and top income-earners who generate most new wealth in any economy.

Fewer tax bands: The present brackets of 20, 35, 45, 50 and 60 per cent will be pared to two or three. There is no objective need for a multi-band system, which causes considerable administrative complication. The old assumption that progressivity could be achieved by increasing the tax rate as incomes grow has proven counter-productive. Entrepreneurs and workers are driven to the underground economy, or prefer not to work at all, if the bulk of their marginal income is seized

by the authorities.

A wider tax base: This is the other side of the coin. Although everyone is in favour of paying less tax and receiving higher take-home pay, many will be unhappy at the price. The lost revenues have to be made good for the most part by increased revenues, since the government can't feasibly cut its spending by the massive amounts involved in the proposed reductions of personal income and corporation taxes.

Higher income will be offset, in almost every reform proposal under consideration, by ending the greatest anomaly in the Israeli economy — the complete tax holiday given to all forms of financial assets. In contrast to other western countries, interest and capital gains are almost untouched in Israel, and disguised salary increases through "advanced training schemes" and employer contributions to savings and provident funds have become commonplace.

These are scheduled to be eliminated, so that interest on bank deposits, savings schemes and all the rest will be taxable. A capital gains tax on stock market transactions is likely — and the prospect is no longer a cause of hysteria in stock exchange circles.

(Continued on Back Page)

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war
erials to
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Israeli envoy addresses UN PLO blamed for inciting trouble on West Bank

Jerusalem Post Staff
Minister Peres appealed
on Friday to ban
Syria of materials
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said.
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res said Baghdad
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By WALTER RUBY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
and Agence
UNITED NATIONS. — Israeli
Ambassador to the UN, Binyamin
Netanyahu said here on Friday that
the disturbances at Bir Zeit Uni-
versity and the murder of a yeshiva
student in Jerusalem "are part of an
attempt of the PLO to murder pros-
pects for peace by inciting to riot."
In a speech during a Security
Council debate called at the request
of Zimbabwe to consider the shoot-
ing of Palestinian students by Israeli
soldiers at Bir Zeit, Netanyahu, 40
debating the issue at the UN was "a
double absurdity" both because of
the ongoing mass killings of Palesti-
nians by the Shi'ite Amal militia in
Lebanon, and because "the Security
Council gets complaints about violence
from the very people who orchestrated
the violence in the first place...the
PLO."
Netanyahu held up pamphlets
which he said had been distributed
by the PLO on the Bir Zeit campus
praising the PLO massacres of
Israelis at Ma'alot and Munich, and
urging students to "liberate all of
Palestine with your blood." Egyptian
delegate Ali Hassan Badawi
told the Security Council that Israel
was responsible for continuing ter-
rorism on the West Bank, and com-



The police barriers come down as students prepare for further clashes during yesterday's protest demonstrations in Paris. (Reuters)

Britain urges support for U.S.

EC drafts steps to fight terror

LONDON. — European Community (EC) leaders, striving to put past disagreements over Libya and Syria behind them, yesterday reiterated their determination to act against states supporting terrorism.
Leaders of the 12 states also endorsed a series of measures drawn up by their interior ministers to tighten border security and increase police cooperation against terrorists.
British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher hailed the package as a major success and said its provisions would also prove effective in the fight against drug trafficking.
Earlier this year, the community was twice plunged into disarray over British calls for tough measures against Libya and Syria before eventually agreeing on more limited steps.
In the case of Syria, implicated in an attempt to smuggle a bomb onto an Israeli plane in London, the situation was complicated by the fact that France saw intervention by Damascus as its best hope of ending a terrorist bombing campaign on the streets of Paris.
The EC leaders did not discuss further measures against Syria in the two-day meeting ended yesterday.
The summit communiqué said three principles would govern the fight against terrorism:
• No concessions to terrorists or their sponsors.
• Solidarity between member states in their efforts to prevent terrorist crimes and bring the guilty to justice.
• Concerted action in response to terrorist attacks and to evidence of external involvement in such acts.
Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called for Western unity at a time of domestic trouble in the U.S. She told reporters that "anything that weakens America weakens Europe. Indeed, it weakens the whole of the free world."
Thatcher said it was particularly necessary for Europe to show unity because of what she termed "certain problems" in Washington over U.S. arms supplies to Iran.
The U.S. arms scandal was not on the formal agenda but was in the background of the meeting. Thatcher, a close ally of President Ronald Reagan, chaired the summit.
Diplomats said leaders of the EC states, excluding neutral Ireland, had expressed serious concern over lack of prior consultation before President Ronald Reagan made concessions to Moscow on nuclear arms reductions at the Reykjavik talks eight weeks ago.
Reflecting those concerns, a press statement issued after the summit said: "The best chances for progress in arms control lie in securing a balanced and verifiable agreement, step by step, in certain priority areas."
Reagan's apparent agreement to withdraw U.S. nuclear arms from Europe, raised fears that Washington's allies might lose the protective American nuclear umbrella.
The statement spoke of the need for continued efforts, including economic cooperation, for stable and constructive relations between East and West.
The summit also discussed prospects for ending the stalemate in the search for Middle East peace. Thatcher said there appeared to be something of a vacuum in the area which left room for a possible peace initiative in the new year. (Reuters, AP)

Iran-backed truce also collapses in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP). — Shi'ite Muslim forces and Palestinian guerrillas battled in Beirut and south Lebanon yesterday, shattering an Iranian-backed cease-fire less than 24 hours after it went into effect, police said.
Iranian delegates quickly began contacts with representatives of the warring factions seeking to contain the sudden escalation and reinstate the truce in Beirut and Sidon, 40 km to the south.
PLO fighters and Shi'ite Amal militiamen duelled with mortars and rockets around Beirut's Shatila and Bourj el-Barajneh camps shortly before dusk, resuming their 13-day-old hostilities.
Fighting between the two forces also flared in Maghdousheh, a contested hilltop village, 5 km southeast of Sidon. No casualty figures from the fresh clashes were available.
Amal, the dominant Shi'ite militia, and the PLO blamed each other for the latest escalation.
The truce was called by Amal chief Nabil Berri "in response to the appeal of the Iranian Islamic Republic."
The Palestinians said they would go along with the call and the guns fell silent at 7 p.m. Friday.
Many other cease-fires worked out by Syria, Libya or Iran have collapsed in the last 10 days of mediation efforts in the Syrian capital of Damascus.
The Palestinians said they would go along with the call and the guns fell silent at 7 p.m. Friday.
Many other cease-fires worked out by Syria, Libya or Iran have collapsed in the last 10 days of mediation efforts in the Syrian capital of Damascus.

PLO 'ends military presence in Tunisia'

KUWAIT (AP). — Tunisian Prime Minister Rashid Sfar was quoted yesterday as saying the Palestine Liberation Organization has terminated its military presence in Tunisia under an agreement reached in Tunis with its chairman, Yasser Arafat.
In an interview with the newspaper *al-Qabas*, Sfar said that when Arafat accepted a Tunisian offer to go to Tunis after the PLO exodus from Lebanon following Israel's 1982 invasion, the understanding was that it would maintain a political, not a military presence in the African country.
"The departure of the Palestinian military leadership has been in compliance with an agreement with the PLO leadership since the beginning, when the Palestinian brethren were facing difficult circumstances," Sfar said.
"The agreement was to exclude the military presence," he added.
Earlier this year, the PLO moved its military command and thousands of Palestinian fighters from Tunis. The command relocated in Baghdad, Iraq, and the fighters were scattered around other Arab countries.
Press reports said the move was a result of a rift between the PLO Leadership and the Tunisian government.
Sfar confirmed that the Palestinian political leadership continued to be based in Tunis which he said stemmed from the presence of the Arab League headquarters in the Tunisian capital.
Sfar denied reports that his government was cracking down on Palestinians, and said: "We have a normal relationship with our Palestinian brethren, and our support for the Palestinian cause and policy toward the PLO remain unchanged."

10 more black miners killed in boycott row

JOHANNESBURG (AP). — A brief but violent clash between rival groups of black miners at a gold mine killed 10 and injured 51, the mining company said yesterday.
The casualties brought to 23 the number killed in the past two weeks at the Vaal Reef gold mine, the world's second-largest producer, about 160 km south-west of Johannesburg.
Fighting November 22-23 over a union boycott of the mine tavern killed 13 black men and wounded 20 others.
In another incident, the Metal and Allied Workers Union said supporters of Inkatha, a conservative Zulu tribal movement, yesterday attacked and killed 11 union members in a

Bogota man kills mother, 20 others

BOGOTA (AP). — A gunman killed 21 people Thursday night in a rampage that started with the murder of his mother and ended with his shooting by police at a pricey Italian restaurant filled with diners, police said.
The man was identified as Campo Elias Delgado, 52, who died of several police gunshots in the head, according to criminal investigator Judge Gloria Luena.
Investigators said 13 diners were killed by Delgado at the Pozzetto restaurant in north-east Bogota, and two died later in a hospital. Five people, all young professional women or students, were killed when they opened their apartment doors and Delgado shot them.
Police had no motive for the rampage, which was among the world's worst one-day massacres by a lone assailant.
Police said the bloodbath started early Thursday evening when Delgado shot his mother, 72-year-old Rita Delgado, in the apartment they shared. The authorities said he covered her body with newspapers and set it afire.
Police accounts said Delgado then went to three other apartments in the building and opened fire on anyone opening the doors.
The gunman then walked about 10 blocks to the restaurant carrying a small suitcase, was seated, placed an order, and began reading an English-language magazine.
Suddenly, according to police and witness accounts, he began shooting indiscriminately, sending diners fleeing for cover.
"He was a madman. He kept shooting and shooting," said Juan Guillermo Gomez, one of the diners. Gomez said between 30 and 35 people were in the Pozzetto Restaurant, including the staff, when the shooting started.
Police experts said about 400 rounds appeared to have been fired by the gunman, who carried the ammunition in a belt and in the suitcase.
Police with loudspeakers ordered the gunman to give himself up, but he kept shooting, firing at the heaps of people already wounded, before police shot him to death.

Opposition in Taiwan charges poll-rigging

TAIPEI (AP). — An estimated 700 dissidents demonstrated outside a government building and accused the ruling Nationalist Party of trying to rig yesterday's general election in Taiwan.
The election for seats in the legislative Yuan and the National Assembly, which elects Taiwan's president, was the first in which the Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, — formed by anti-Communists who fled the mainland in 1949 — was challenged by a native Taiwanese party, the Democratic Progressive Party.
The vote-rigging charge stemmed from a blank ballot found in an alley by an acquaintance of a DPP candidate.
The alley lies around the corner from a polling station and the DPP claimed the ballot could have been one of the distributed by the Kuomintang to its supporters to stuff ballot boxes.
Officials reported heavy voter turnout in the election. But observers said results would pose no threat to nationalist Chinese rule in Taiwan.
Results are expected today.

Italy jails Arab youth for role in ship hijack

GENOA (Reuters). — An Italian juvenile court Friday sentenced a Lebanese youth to 16 years and three months in jail for his involvement in hijacking the Italian Achille Lauro cruise liner last year, court sources said.
They said Bassam al-Ashker, 18, was also found guilty of complicity in the murder of the wheelchair-bound U.S. passenger Leon Klinghoffer and of illegal possession of weapons.
A previous sentence against Ashker had been quashed after a court discovered he had been only 17, and therefore a minor, during the two-day hijacking in October last year.
Three other captured hijackers were sentenced to between 15 and 30 years imprisonment at the end of a trial here last July.

Egyptian officers charged with bid to topple regime

CAIRO (AP). — Egypt's top prosecutor has charged four military officers and 29 civilians with trying to organize a Moslem holy war to topple President Hosni Mubarak's government.
The indictment, issued on Thursday, said the men had formed an extremist Moslem organization, financed at least partially by armed robberies, "to call for Jihad (holy war) to overthrow the ruling system." It convicted of charges recommended by Prosecutor-General Mohammed el-Gundi, the defendants could be sentenced to up to 25 years at hard labour.
The charge sheet said the group planned to use firearms, explosives and ammunition stolen from the military "with the intention of undermining public security and order and using them to achieve the group's aims."

Hongkong governor dies in China

PEKING (AP). — Hongkong's Governor, Sir Edward Youde, the chief negotiator for Britain in talks on the turnover of the colony to China, died on Thursday night while visiting Peking. He was 62.
The British Embassy spokesman said Youde had spent the night at the Peking residence of British Ambassador Sir Richard Evans and his death was discovered early Friday morning.
Asked whether Youde had appeared ill the night before, Evans said: "He looked very well to me, very cheerful."
The ambassador said the cause of death would not be known until the death certificate was issued. He declined to say whether the death would affect continuing discussions on Hongkong's future.
Youde was the chief British negotiator in the talks which resulted in an agreement signed by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang in December 1984.

Pigeon — A British pigeon breeder has paid a world record price of £41,000 for a single racing pigeon — the equivalent of 10 times the bird's weight in gold — but the bird will not be racing any more, and was bought in Belgium for breeding purposes.

Thatcher comments on press "innuendoes"

LONDON (Reuters). — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday publicly cleared Lord Rothschild, a member of the wealthy banking family and a former secret agent, of allegations that he had been a Soviet spy.
In a written statement Thatcher said: "I am advised that we have no evidence that he was ever a Soviet agent."
Her declaration came only a day after the 76-year-old merchant banker and biophysicist appeared in a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper for the head of the MI5 intelligence service, for whom he once worked, to clear his name of what he described as "innuendoes" in the press.
In parliament last week the prime minister, who was described by gov-

Troops protect Sikh temples

NEW DELHI (AP). — Hundreds of troops were deployed around three Sikh temples in the capital yesterday, a day after six people died in rioting at one of the temples.
Lieutenant-Governor H.L. Kapur of New Delhi state said the army had also been placed on standby in two areas of western New Delhi, but that no soldiers had been ordered out on the streets. A curfew was in effect at all three temples.
Kapur said in a televised statement that the army has been positioned in some "trouble-prone areas as a matter of abundant caution."
Anti-Sikh riots and protests across north India began with the murder last Sunday of 24 Hindus in the northern state of Punjab by four Sikh separatists.

Rothschild cleared of spy charge

that also included Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, Donald McLean and Anthony Blunt.
The first three eventually fled to the Soviet Union while Blunt died in disgrace after being unmasked in 1979.
The allegations, which according to Rothschild have been going on since 1980, resurfaced last month during a court case in Australia in which the British government is trying to stop publication of the memoirs of former MI5 officer Peter Wright.

Thatcher comments on press "innuendoes"

LONDON (Reuters). — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday publicly cleared Lord Rothschild, a member of the wealthy banking family and a former secret agent, of allegations that he had been a Soviet spy.
In a written statement Thatcher said: "I am advised that we have no evidence that he was ever a Soviet agent."
Her declaration came only a day after the 76-year-old merchant banker and biophysicist appeared in a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper for the head of the MI5 intelligence service, for whom he once worked, to clear his name of what he described as "innuendoes" in the press.
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Bullet-proof armour popular with both sides in Ireland

By DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. — Just over a week ago, about 30 civilians who have the misfortune to live on the Irish border, were injured when an IRA mortar attack went wrong.
The IRA had intended its bombs to land on a Royal Ulster Constabulary station. Instead, at least three mortars shot over the station roof and crashed into nearby homes.
The bung was rare for the IRA — nine policemen died when it accurately bombed the same station a year ago — but it helps explain one of Northern Ireland's most unlikely growth industries.
In a sadly declining economy, personal protection is one of the few money-penners. Reinforced doors and shutter-proof windows are commonplace in the troubled province, while one Belfast politician, MP Peter Robinson, cruises round town in a blue Mercedes that is said to be bomb-proof.
But the biggest seller is body armour, and Northern Ireland's in-

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novative, unobtrusive, protective garb is reportedly clothing the careful from Afghanistan to Yemen. Hundreds of people in Northern Ireland now regularly wear discreet bullet-proof clothing — in the form of vests, body warmers, and waistcoats.
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Petrol workers start sanctions tomorrow

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Long lines are likely to develop at petrol stations around the country starting tomorrow, as workers of the Paz, Delek, Sonol and Pi-Gilot begin imposing sanctions to protest an Energy Ministry plan to deregulate the fuel sector.

Representatives of some 1,500 workers at the four companies told a press conference last week that they will begin supplying petrol to stations at 9:00 on Monday morning instead of the usual 4 or 5 a.m.

Mordechai Groberg, the Histadrut's national secretary of fuel company workers, said on Thursday that if these sanctions fail to bring changes in the Energy Ministry's plans, measures would be stepped up, to include the 13,000 workers at the petrol stations themselves.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal plans to begin deregulating the fuel

sector at the first of the year in a programme that would permit the state-owned Oil Refineries Ltd. to import and refine its own crude oil and sell it at competitive prices to the private energy companies.

Large fuel consumers, such as the bus co-operatives and the Electric Corp., could import fuel on their own, under the plan. Shahal has also offered to sell a controlling interest in the Oil Refineries to the fuel companies.

The oil companies, as well as the banks that hold interests in them and the Histadrut holding company, Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, have strongly opposed the plans.

Workers representatives said they feared Shahal's proposed reforms would lead to lower pay and job cutbacks in the fuel sector. They said they had sought to meet with Shahal to explain their viewpoint but had so far been rebuffed.

EXECUTIVE CHANGES/Michal Yudelma



Davar's Eliezer Shmueli



Canon's Tommy Lang

New board members appointed at Davar

The executive committee of the Histadrut's Hevrat Ha'Ovdim last week elected a new board of directors for its Print Media Co., the mother company of the daily Davar, Davar Print, and the publishing house Am Oved and retailing centre Sifri. ELIEZER SHMUELI, former director-general of the Education Ministry, was named board chairman, while AHARON KRAUS will be its general manager. Other board members are: PROF. SHELOMO BEN-AMI, HANNAH ZEMER, YOSEF BAR-ZION, TEDDY KATZMAN, BEZALEL TARIB, YITZHAK GREENBERG, AMNON SADE and three workers' representatives.

A new board of directors was also chosen for Davar itself, with Shmueli serving as chairman. Also on the board are Zemer, Bar-Zion, Greenberg as well as SHIMON AVIZEMER, AHARON KRAUS, NATAN RANANAN, AVRAHAM ASARAF, YITZHAK BACHAR and workers' representatives.

Bank Tefahot's former deputy general manager for organization and administration, YONA YUDELEVITZ, has been appointed the internal controller of the United Mizrahi Bank mortgage subsidiary, ZALMAL SAGI was named bank secretary general and YISRAEL SEGAL, to Yudelevitz's previous post.

TOMMY LANG has been appointed events and sales manager of the Ayalon Canon shopping mall. Previously one of the general managers of the defunct Dolphinarium, Lang, 40, said he intends to turn the mall into a family entertainment centre.

Israel General Bank Ltd. has named AMITZUR SHLASKI as deputy general manager for international business and AMIR GEVA as

manager of the bank's investments division.

HERBERT HUBERMAN is the new manager of reservations and ticketing for TWA in Israel; DAVID RUDNER was named sales manager.

RAZ PELED, of Peled Advertising and Public Relations, was elected a member of the executive committee of the Israel Advertising Association. The youngest committee member, Raz, 30, is a second generation advertising man. His father is Haim Peled, who served as the Advertising Association's chairman for 10 years.

REUVEN SHMER has been appointed general sales manager for Control Data Israel, replacing BARUCH PALTI, who is about to go abroad. Shmer accepted the post after visiting the company's headquarters in Minneapolis and meeting the new management.

The Executive Committee of the Histadrut's Hevrat Ha'Ovdim last week approved the appointment of ZVIALDROTTI as board chairman of Teus Development Areas Ltd., which supports industrial projects in development areas. Aldrotti is replacing AMIRAM SIVAN, who retired after being appointed chairman of Bank Hapoalim's board.

MATI ATIVI has been appointed national sales manager of Daisy Israel, the local subsidiary of Daisy Systems Corp. Ativi, 39, is a Technion graduate in electronic engineering. Until now he managed the sales of Fibronics Ltd. and before that, was in charge of business development for SIC Systems Technology Co. in South Africa and manager of international marketing in Degem Systems Ltd.

Ativi replaces AMNON AVEN-KESEF, who is moving to a senior post with the parent company in California.

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMY/Ibrahim Nouri

Jordan's new taste for fish

Jordan is stepping up fish production to meet growing demand and to cut fish imports under a general policy aimed at achieving "total food security."

In the next five years, annual output is expected to increase from 100 metric tons to about 1,200 tons, although this will still fall far short of demand. "Jordan will have to continue importing fish," says a Jordanian shopkeeper.

Jordanians, traditionally meat-eaters, appear to be developing a taste for fish. Major hotels and restaurants now have fish dishes on the menu and there are several "fish 'n' chips" shops in Amman.

Local fish comes from lakes created by dammed rivers, fish farms and the Gulf of Eilat on the Red Sea. In addition, 6,000 to 7,000 tons of fish is imported from Europe, the Far East and the Persian Gulf each year.

"We should substantially increase both our salt and fresh water fish production not only to meet demand but also to enrich the diet and reduce our reliance on imported food," a senior Agriculture Ministry official says.

Jordan's average annual fish consumption is 2.5 kilograms per head, only one-fifth of the world average, says Mohammed Yacoub Al-Abbadi, head of the ministry's animal wealth department.

Fishing by about 100 licensed fishermen using simple motorized boats in the Gulf of Eilat, Jordan's only sea outlet, is limited to a 25-kilometer coastal strip facing Israel.

Their catch is small, restricted for reasons of security, shipping, pollution and environment. They can fish only in the daytime due to the state of hostilities between Jordan and Israel. "For them, fishing has become a hobby these days," says Abbadi.

Tilapia, native to the area for the past four millennia, and carp are caught from the Yarmouk River, which rises in Syria, and from the river Jordan.

Bigger yields come from the 42 fish farms of a newly-created quasi-government company in the Jordan Valley. Its output next year is expected to reach 200 tons, a five-fold increase from 1984.

The firm, in which Sweden's Marsson Engineering AB has a 10 per cent stake, is planning another project using spring water to produce an additional 400 tons of tilapia, carp and catfish a year.

Jordan's 1986-1990 development plan budgets \$3.4 million on two fish-culture projects to produce 600 tons of fish a year.

The University of Jordan, backed by French experts, is studying the prospects of breeding fish in the Gulf of Eilat using floating cages.

(Reuters)

'Consumers have no say in insurance industry'

By MARTHA MEISELS
TEL AVIV. - There is no consumer representation on the Insurance Council nor on other public forums which govern insurance rates and practices, the Histadrut's Consumer Protection Authority charged at a press conference here last week, nor has any governmental committee dealing with insurance heeded any of the Consumer Authority's suggestions on the matter.

In the absence of such representation, the authority spokesmen pointed out what they considered several of the most glaring injustices in local insurance laws and procedures:

- If an insurance company goes bankrupt, the individual policyholders are the last of the creditors entitled to collect from the company's remaining assets, with the exception of the face-value of life insurance policies.
- Insurance agents, who used to be considered the representatives of the insured, are today, under law, the official emissaries of the insurance companies, to which they owe their loyalty. In bankruptcy cases, agents are obliged to halt any transactions in progress and return the money to the company, not to the insured persons.

- When a court here rules in favour of an insured party against a company, it does not impose a fine on the company, as is common custom abroad.

- Over the past decade or so, the absolute number of annual fatalities and injuries from traffic accidents, requiring compensation, has dropped, while the number of cars on the roads has doubled. Yet there has been no decrease in the rates for compulsory insurance per vehicle.

- There is still no adequate insurance plan for protecting the large sums of money which prospective home owners deposit with building contractors. In some cases, there have been collapses of the special insurance companies insuring housing deposits.

- The official establishment of minimum and maximum insurance rates inhibits competition, and has worked to raise insurance premiums rather than lower them as intended.

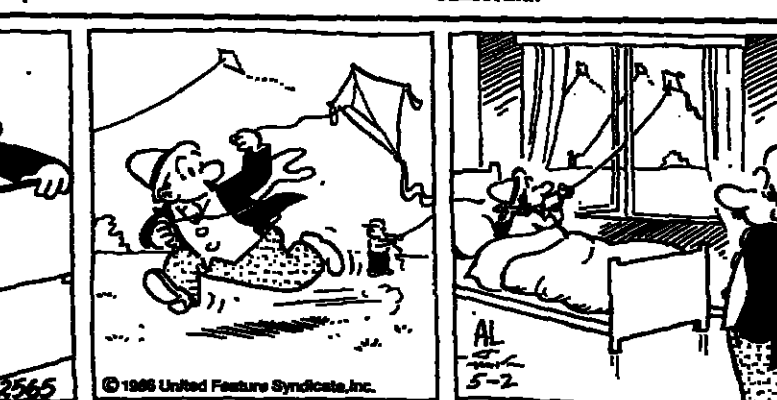
Although Prof. David Sasson, of Tel Aviv University, who was at the press conference, noted that he was a member of the Insurance Council, and served in a voluntary capacity with the Histadrut's Consumer Authority, he said he could not be considered an official consumer representation on the council.

Britain urged to boost trade with Israel

By DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. - Britain's highest-paid businessman last week urged his colleagues to step up their trade with Israel and to pay no heed to the Arab boycott.

Speaking at a British-Israel Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Sir Ralph Halperin, chairman of the 1,500-outlet Burton clothing group, also called on the British government to introduce anti-boycott legislation of the kind that has been so successful in the Netherlands.



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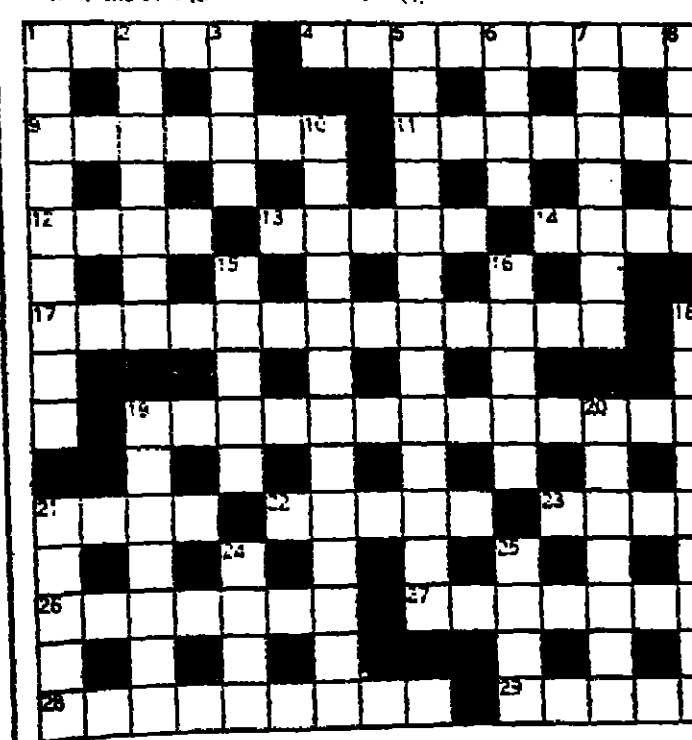
ONE-ON-ONE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Move to central financial statement (5)
- 4 Railway A-Z until revised, is hard to crack (6)
- 9 Air force fire-raising device (7)
- 11 Deep red borders in study (7)
- 12 Host for Mary, quite contrary (4)
- 13 Nurseryman Jack, a mackerel-catcher (5)
- 14 A pitcher for the orchestra (4)
- 17 Put not Bassanio's toxicous (4)
- 19 A landing-out list (13)
- 21 Constable's painted cart (4)
- 22 Butter bill to deliver (5)
- 23 Stock check (4)
- 26 Six m. cutting out of Wessex traction-engines (7)
- 27 Profits received, thanks to severance (7)
- 28 Fruit-tree the present home of this bird (9)
- 29 What, the violinist furthest from the bow (5)

DOWN

- 1 Clipped like a Camptown runner? (8)
- 2 Flight of Mendelssohn's fourth, the Italian, with novel title (7)
- 3 Blackwood, the retiring noble left out (4)
- 5 One might find ring in Carthage soil that is turned over (13)
- 6 Most of Hibernian flag (4)
- 7 It can provide second half of one's beans (7)
- 8 Apprehensive about what is taught in grammar-schools (5)
- 10 Tape disco-hits in order to be cosmopolitan (13)
- 15 Riding-school tumble? (5)
- 16 Devil of a discovery around one quarter (5)
- 18 Brother who changed forenames (8)
- 19 Composer who comes from Beds, we hear (7)
- 20 Concentrated, describing decimal-point (7)
- 21 Women assist this young thing (5)
- 24 Carnival above board (4)
- 25 One-way mountain runners? (4)



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Sunday, December 7

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Smooth and glossy
- 7 Girl's name
- 8 Outing
- 9 Rodent
- 10 Venture

DOWN

- 1 Beech
- 2 Lake in Switzerland
- 3 Certain
- 4 Riddle
- 5 Striped animal
- 6 Serpent
- 7 Hell
- 12 Hungarian dish
- 13 Track for horses alongside canal
- 15 "Head" side of coin
- 16 Pigment
- 17 Self-respecting
- 18 Dawdle
- 21 Leg-joint

North Korea offers to pay debt in fish

TOKYO (AP). - North Korea has offered to use fish to repay trade debts of about \$430 million to 36 Japanese trading firms over the next five years, business sources said last week.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said North Korean authorities made the offer to a delegation from the East Asian Trade Research Board of Tokyo that visited Pyongyang in mid-November to discuss North Korea's delay in repaying the debts.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government has been informed of the North Korean offer. He said it was a matter to be settled "by private hands although it is the government's position that it would work out well."

Japan has no diplomatic relations with North Korea.

Today, December 7, at 8 p.m.

LECTURER: Rabbi Shlomo Flisken, Dean Ohr Torah Institute, Rev-Ehrat.

SUBJECT: The Orthodox Woman in the Religious Council

Frilay's Solutions

PATCHES DOGGY
OCEANIC
TRADING LIE DOWN
S B E I G I E N A
HEATS INVENTION
C G H E E T
TOSSING RESISTS
R
REBATES SHARPER
E A H T N E
FARMHOUSE DEEDS
U R U T A R C I
STARLET MEANING
E C K E E S N
DRESSER ROSS

QUICK SOLUTION

Across: 1, Reported; 3, Sistrum; 9, Tundras; 10, Overcast; 11, Lense; 12, Extending; 13, Street; 14, Drugged; 16, Dressed; 19, Sabbed; 22, Melodrama; 24, Drake; 25, Opinion; 26, Tangles; 27, Suggest; 28, Radders.

Down: 1, Rattles; 2, Panchaea; 3, Shattered; 4, Dressed; 5, Poured; 6, Sain; 7, Raising; 8, Mangled; 15, Abandoned; 16, Demosy; 17, Calling; 18, Dragnet; 19, Shatter; 20, Braille; 21, Dressed; 23, Drive.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	December 5, 1986	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1	1.4956
GERMANY	MARK	1	1.4983
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	1	7.463
FRANCE	FRANC	1	2.1288
JAPAN	YEN	100	2279
HOLLAND	FLORIN	1	5154
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	1	6803
SWEDEN	KRONA	1	5942
NORWAY	KRONE	1	2152
DENMARK	KRONE	1	1872
FINLAND	MARKKA	1	1978
CANADA	DOLLAR	1	3000
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1	1.0788
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	1	5729
BELGIUM	FRANC	10	6717
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	10	3690
ITALY	LIRA	1000	1.0801
JORDAN	DINAR	1	1.0789
EGYPT	POUND	1	4.2286
ECU		1	2240
			11.5828

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TEL

fish Business booms at Bloomfield Europe is still the goal

apia, native to the area for four millennia, and can be found in the Yarmouk, Jordan. The fish is a good source of protein and is being marketed in the area. The fish is being marketed in the area. The fish is being marketed in the area.

By PAUL KOHN
TEL AVIV. - Over 21,000 football fans jam-packed the Bloomfield Stadium for the first time this season yesterday to see Betar Jerusalem beat reigning champions Hapoel Tel Aviv 1-0 and take a fourth place in the National League. (See Match Report.)

Several hundred more fans, many of them ticketholders, were locked out of the ground. The combination of brilliant sunshine and a menagerie of soccer stars from Betar, Hapoel Tel Aviv, and Maccabi Tel Aviv and Maccabi Haifa persuaded the fans to pay from NIS 20 to NIS 25 for a ticket. The black market price for the entry was NIS 100.

While all the razzmatazz was taking place at the Jaffa stadium, 5,000 fans in Petah Tikva saw Hapoel win that town's derby over Maccabi by 1-0 to move into second place behind Betar Jerusalem. It was Hapoel's third consecutive win and again their central striker Nir Levin was the architect.

The winning goal was scored by Nir Levin through the second half. It was the goalkeeper, Ronit Djerbi of Hapoel and Ofer Fabian of Maccabi, who capably controlled their goal areas and kept the score down to the single digit.

Maccabi Tel Aviv came back to winning form after three games, beating Maccabi Haifa 2-1 after trailing 0-1 at the 11th minute.

By MICHAEL SCHWARTZ
Five thousand fans welcomed Maccabi Netanya back to their renovated stadium in the heart of the city and witnessed an entertaining 1-1 draw fought between Maccabi and Bnei Yehuda.

It was Bnei Yehuda, however, who initiated the action. Their attacking duo of Moshe Eisenberg and David Gordana posed all kinds of problems for the Netanya defenders. In the 17th minute, Eisenberg curled a ball around Maccabi's centre back Baruch Hasson, and it was Gordana who had a fraction quicker off the mark. Bnei Yehuda might have gone a goal up. Instead Yaacov Baladey, the Netanya goal keeper, was able to deflect the ball over the touchline for a corner.

Five minutes later, Bnei Yehuda had an appeal for a penalty turned down by referee. The fine defence of Yossi Zana, Rami Arama and veteran Yaacov Eckhaus helped goalkeeper Arie Alster to keep his net intact. David Pizanti was appointed Uri Malmilian's shadow, and Zana kept close to Ohana. This left the most space to Avi Golder in the Betar attack, and allowed Avi Cohen to come frequently from midfield in support of his forwards.



NO WAY THROUGH. - Maccabi Haifa's Zahi Armeli sees the ground coming up fast as his rush dies between Maccabi Tel Aviv's Avi Cohen and Menashe Shimonov.

MATCH REPORT Hapoel Tel Aviv 0, Betar Jerusalem 1

Golder finds lone hole in 2 defences

By AVNER MACHTINGER
TEL AVIV. - A game of tight marking by defences was broken once only by Avi Golder who slammed in a cross by Eli Ohana to give Betar Jerusalem their 1-0 victory over Hapoel Tel Aviv before a capacity crowd split down the middle in support of the two teams.

MATCH REPORT Maccabi Netanya 1, Bnei Yehuda 1

Gordana rescues Bnei Yehuda

By MICHAEL SCHWARTZ
Five thousand fans welcomed Maccabi Netanya back to their renovated stadium in the heart of the city and witnessed an entertaining 1-1 draw fought between Maccabi and Bnei Yehuda.

COMMENT

By PHILIP GILLON and YORAM KESSEL

Maccabi Tel Aviv have now changed their abject policy with regard to letting Avi Cohen go to Glasgow Rangers and there is still a slim chance that he will have another crack at playing in the highest echelons of club soccer. For the sake of Avi Cohen, Maccabi Tel Aviv and Israeli football in general, it is to be hoped that the move, indeed, takes place.

We say this despite the fact that Israeli footballers, who went with such high hopes and such a fanfare of trumpets to European clubs at the beginning of the season, are at present going through a lean time. David Pizanti has returned home after failing to keep a place in Cologne FC, one of the top clubs in West Germany. Ronnie Rosenthal, after becoming the hero of Bruges of Belgium, as he scored a goal in almost every one of the early matches, is having trouble getting into the club's opening line-up. Morri Iwanir is doing even worse at Roda in Holland.

So the "patriotic" wisecracks opposed to young men trying their luck abroad are saying, "Aha! We told you so. Israelis should stay at home."

Such narrow-minded attitudes are extremely short-sighted. Israeli football bosses have long maintained that acceptance into European soccer is the only just solution to the problem posed for us by the Arab boycott which has effectively ended participation in the Asian sphere. Nobody can question the justice of that demand.

But rights carry responsibilities. If Israel is one day finally admitted into Europe, we have to reach a European standard. It would be absurd to have the claim recognized, and then to be thrashed regularly, as happens, for instance to Malta and Cyprus.

If Israeli players are limited to playing against each other in National League and State Cup matches, apart from the occasional friendly international and the rare jaunt into earnest international competition, the requisite standard will never be reached. We learned the value of countries having players in Europe during the last World Cup matches. Mistled by all our players except Pizanti, playing only within Israel's narrow environs, where they looked wonderful, our football authorities, players and press developed delusions of grandeur. They all agreed that we would whip Australia and New Zealand with ease.

Australia had a number of players with experience in the English and Scottish leagues. New Zealand had two brothers who were a mainstay of a club in the Swiss league. These players made such an enormous difference to their respective teams that they made our supermen look very ordinary. With regard to the Australians, we had an alibi: we screamed that they played too roughly. That too split, in one respect, lack of experience. We could not even pose that line of defence about the New Zealanders, yet they too proved competently our masters.

If our players are given every chance they can get to play in Europe, they could transform the national side and their club sides as well. Instead of playing dog in the manger, as Maccabi Tel Aviv did with Avi Cohen and Betar Jerusalem did with Eli Ohana last season, clubs should encourage them perhaps to go, with a proviso that they will return to the same clubs after two seasons abroad, or less if they finish sooner.

By the same token, one or two foreign players in each club would also have a very beneficial effect on standards. The arguments against are very weak. One line is that they will keep out Israelis.

It is an old argument applied to basketball. Certainly, there the foreign players have raised standards, even though it must be admitted that Israelis find it hard to compete with them, mainly because of the height problem. The gains in basketball, nevertheless outweigh the disadvantages.

In any case, in basketball two foreigners out of five in the starting line-up is a different kettle of fish. In soccer, it would be two out of 11, so there would still be plenty of scope for talented Israelis. The spin-off of playing alongside skilful, committed players is, anyway, enormous and one or two players can change a team.

Another argument is that European mercenaries would get so much money that everyone would start clamouring for more. This is arrant nonsense. Local salaries are already higher than most soccer players in Europe excluding those at top level, receive.

Lower division teams in England often develop likely young lads whom they later transfer to top league teams. The transfer fees are welcome... indeed the little clubs thrive on them. It indicates lack of perspective, more delusions of one's true place in the scheme of things, to try to deny this national flow of talent.

If we are serious about getting into Europe, we have to Europeanize our standards. It is as simple as that. If they have the opportunity. So let the lads go to Europe - and let the Europeans come here. In fact this interchange must be fostered as much as possible.

MASTERS TENNIS

Top four seeds in semis

NEW YORK (AP). - The world's top four tennis players have made it through to the semi-finals of the Nabisco Grand Prix masters tournament in Madison Square Garden.

The top three, Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker and Mats Wilander were joined by Stefan Edberg after Andre Gome, the No. 8 player defeated Yannick Noah 7-6, 7-6 thus leaving Noah no chance of overtaking Edberg for a semi-final place.

Gomez won both tiebreakers by 7-4 scores and although Noah had his chances, the left-hander from Ecuador fought off four set points in the 10th game and two in the 12th to send the second set to a tiebreak.

Noah was leading 5-2 in the second set when he suddenly fell ill and had to be attended to at the side of the court.

"I had a bad cheeseburger," he later said. After that, Noah was able to win one more game, only after Gomez had pulled even.

On Friday, Becker cooled off a blazing Henri Leconte 6-6, 6-1, 6-1, and Lendl stopped Edberg 6-3, 6-4.

Strong competition for Kinneret marathon

By JACK LEON

Post Sports Reporter
TEL AVIV. - Finland's Kaarlo Maanikka and Hannu Mikkilanta - the former a Moscow Olympics 10,000-metre bronze medalist - are among the latest entries in next week's Tibberias Sea of Galilee International Marathon. For both it will be their second crack at the annual 42-km. race round the Kinneret's southern perimeter; Mikkilanta finished third last year, but Maanikka pulled out at the half-way mark in the 1983 meet.

Another man coming from Scandinavia for the December 17 race will be Norwegian Ketil Berg, while Meeri Bodelid from Sweden will be among the women participants, Israeli Athletic Association general secretary Rami Ziemian told The Jerusalem Post on Friday. All three men have useful times for the marathon, while Bodelid's best effort of 2:42.24 is only 26 seconds outside the women's race record.

The men's entry also includes Keesa's Samvel Mogre Kerandi and Peter Meisel Orlow, and former two-time winner Werner Dornbacher of West Germany. But on the debit side, holders Lindsay Robertson from Scotland and American Shirley Gilbert have both withdrawn their entries.

The majority of the 200 overseas participants will be members of Barry Shaw's third annual International Running Tour of Israel, of which the marathon is the centre-piece. The group's British members includes wheelchair athlete Robert Osborne, 25, and 28-year-old identical twins Allison and Debbie Thompson. Around 300 Israeli athletes are expected for the meet.

The IAA is awarding prize money of \$1,500 to the first male runner who breaks the existing race record of 2:14.02. In addition, the Israel Emerald Cutters Association will present cash awards of \$250 to the first Israeli man and woman past the post, Ziemian reported.

The marathon starts at 6 a.m. and finishes at the Tibberias Plaza Hotel, the main sponsor and headquarters of the race.

Berger stopped in quarter-finals

Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Israeli tennis star Ilana Berger was beaten 6-2, 6-4 by France's Lydie van Hille at the weekend in the singles quarter-finals.

Caesarea Golf

Seven-handicapped Louis Nieuwoudt, of the South African Embassy, won the A Division in Friday's stroke-play tournament with a B-under-par 72 net.

The B-Division winner was Meir Assayag (116 handicapped) with a 71 net.

The monthly seniors (35 and over), played as a three-ball best-ball, was won by Eli Kirshbaum.

fish
istery
BASKETBALL
Maccabi waste their big men
BRITISH SOCCER
Gunnars keep on going
Claire's friends help launch tour
RUGBY
Jerusalem hold on
NBA RESULTS
VOLLEYBALL
Caesarea Golf

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The brutal equation

OCCUPATION, in its ugliest and deadliest meanings. That is what expressed itself in the disturbances at Bir Zeit University and Ramallah, which began on Thursday. And all the protestations of the army that the young Arabs who were killed, and the many others who were wounded, both on and off the campus, were hit only in the extremis of self defence, and only by bullets that were intended for legs, cannot eclipse the plain brutal results themselves.

Obviously troops at the receiving end of rocks and stones are under danger and pressure, and cannot be expected to exercise unrealistic qualities of restraint. But the army and the defence authorities are well aware of these equations. The long experience of occupation, and the periodic disturbances at Bir Zeit and elsewhere, have made the dangers perfectly plain.

Why then should the O/C of Central Command, Ehud Barak, announce that only now is the army trying to develop rubber bullets with a long-range effectiveness? Why is it that even in Ulster, where British troops are often under more severe threats, live ammunition is not used to curb demonstrations, but in the West Bank it is routine?

If the assumption is that an iron-fist policy at Bir Zeit, which is a hot-bed of Palestinian and pro-PLO sentiment, is going to quench the students' nationalist flame, the record indicates quite the reverse.

The clashes with Israeli troops, and the inevitable toll in lives and injured, creates instead a new Palestinian mythology of David against Goliath, in which Israel is the Goliath. Where Palestinian youngsters with nothing but stones, face well-armed Israeli troops, in which male students fleeing an assault on the campus, carry female students on their backs across the hills and fields to safety.

This is the heroic romantic mythology which Israeli military policy is inculcating in the young generation of the West Bank. An ethos of resistance to the blood and steel of the helmeted occupier.

Even if tempers cool and calm returns at Bir Zeit and Ramallah, Israel is, in the long term, the loser in such events. For their imprint remains etched in the minds of the West Bank population, especially the young, militating against the coexistence which alone can be Israel's goal.

For those who doubt such simple truths, it would be well to remember that in the late 1960s a few fire engines with water cannon were sufficient to disperse even the most violent demonstrations. Today not even live bullets persuade the demonstrators to relent.

The declining fortunes of the PLO and Jordan's heightened interest in the West Bank has opened some new opportunities for Israel in the direction of coexistence. But if these opportunities are to be pursued, they require, as well, jettisoning the hoary old premises about how to deal with a trouble spot like Bir Zeit.

Certainly, the consequences of permitting Bir Zeit students to stage political demonstrations inside their campus would be far less damaging to the ultimate prospects of coexistence, than constant harassment, military roadblocks, incursions onto the campus, and periodic violent clashes.

Unfortunately, however, Israel of the 1980s, including the government and the army, has succumbed to the trap laid for all occupiers. The usages of force dominate thinking, the advantages of power blind awareness of its limitations.

Instead of prodding the authorities, both civilian and military to some searching reappraisal, the events at Bir Zeit and Ramallah will only lead - as the official pronouncements already indicate - to more self-serving protestations of innocence.

TAXMAN

(Continued from Page One)

Amazingly, the loudest objections to the proposals have been from Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar, who termed it "a programme to make the rich richer." Kessar has consistently fought suggestions to tax training funds and other joint employer-employee funded savings.

Other tax shelters that are likely to be abolished are the special treatment of development towns - extended only a few days ago to Mizpeh Ramon - and the tax breaks allowed for medical and other expenses. In

come from government sources - such as National Insurance allowances, welfare payments and Defence Ministry pensions - will all become taxable if they bring their recipient to the tax-paying level.

All forms of income will be declared on a standard tax statement, and every individual will be able to calculate his tax liability on his total income.

These principles, if implemented, would mark the greatest-ever change in the Israeli tax structure and would bring it into line with normal practice in most Western economies.

SHARIR

(Continued from Page One)

Friday morning. He told The Post last night that "the government is constantly being degraded by the fact that the high court is asked time and again to step in and rectify ministers' mistakes. It happened in the Shin Bet case, it happened this week in the Shoshana Miller case and here it is happening again. The cabinet shares responsibility for Sharir's dismal decision, which paints a distorted picture of Israel and of the rule of law in this country."

Mapam will submit a no-confidence motion in the government this morning and also intends to join the petition in the high court. In a Friday speech in Tel Aviv, Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon congratulated Sharir on his decision, saying "I do not accept the zest to extradite Jews. As a member of a small nation, I object to handing Jews over to non-Jews."

Hebrew University law professors plan to present Sharir this morning with a petition protesting Sharir's decision.

French Ambassador to Israel Alain Pierret told The Post last night that he has yet to receive any official notice of Sharir's decision from the Justice Ministry. He rejected Sharir's claim that Nakash's life would be in danger in French jails, which, he said, "were as safe as any in democratic countries."

Nakash's attorney Roland Roth last night said on Israel television that Sharir's decision was influenced by information brought to his attention about the Nakash family in France. Roth said that three members of the family had been killed by "anti-Semites" and that other members had taken part in "acts of re-

venge" against Syrian targets in France. In their petition, the CRM MKs maintain that the release of Nakash, who in March 1985 was arrested on the Jerusalem-Jericho road while preparing an armed robbery, "would endanger public safety."

In a subsequent deal worked out with one of Nakash's accomplices, who turned state's evidence, Nakash was given immunity from prosecution by the police and the Jerusalem District Attorney. Justice Ministry sources said that this immunity might be revoked.

The CRM petition claims that Sharir's decision should be overturned by the High Court because it was based on "irrelevant considerations" and was influenced by "political and ideological elements." The decision "ignores Israel's commitment to the rule of law and undermines the laws of extradition."

Section 18 of the Extradition Law states that "The Minister of Justice may order the carrying out of the extradition of a wanted person." In past cases, the high court has been reluctant to intervene in matters subject to ministers' discretion.

Michel Zlotowski adds from Paris: Paris has still not reacted officially to Sharir's decision. A high ranking official in the French Justice Ministry told The Post: "It is out of the question to make any fuss about this case. Israel is a sovereign state, dealing with its citizens as it pleases. We do not extradite our nationals. We understand that Israel has adopted the same position."

According to other sources, a French official complained verbally to Israeli officials about the denigrating remarks Sharir had made about French jails.

Human rights as a litmus test

Chaim Chesler

IN THE wake of last month's opening of the third Helsinki follow-up conference in Vienna (the third Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe), those concerned with Soviet human rights observance may at least take comfort on one score: whatever the final outcome of the conference, the issue of human rights is clearly in the forefront of the talks. The American position was emphatically stated and reiterated during the first week of the conference, and is well reflected in the words of Warren Zimmerman, head of the U.S. delegation to the conference. He declared: "We have said to the Soviets that if they are prepared to take significant steps in the human rights area, there will be a response from the United States."

Inversely, no progress can be expected on either security and cooperation in Europe or on such global

issues as nuclear disarmament, unless the Soviet Union complies with its obligations under the Helsinki Final Act.

Such diverse issues are linked because the incumbent U.S. administration believes, and has stated categorically, that the Soviet attitude on human rights is one of the most reliable indicators of Soviet willingness to compromise. It is in this context that the catch phrase "litmus test" was coined in Vienna.

The delegation sent by the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry was surprised by the explosion of interest and media coverage of the question of Soviet Jewry. This concern focused on the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union in general, as well as on individual pleas by relatives of refuseniks within the delegation.

Media interest in individuals was a new development at Vienna in contrast to the earlier Reykjavik sum-

mit. Zimmerman himself noted its importance by saying: "Raising a specific case symbolizes numbers of other people who are in similar difficulties. Raising a specific case also points out that the Helsinki process is about individuals and that individuals count."

Opponents of the specific case approach frequently argue that the Soviets exploit the resolution of such cases as a showcase to demonstrate their goodwill and positive attitude to solving the problem. However, widespread public support is rarely won with mere statistics and abstract arguments; a human issue must show flesh and blood results.

THE HELSINKI Final Act states that: "The participating states will deal in a positive and humanitarian spirit with the applications of persons who wish to be united with members of their family, with special attention being given to requests of an urgent character - such as requests submitted by persons who are

ill or old." Soviet violations of human rights and of the spirit of their undertakings under the Helsinki Accords are displayed in their most grotesque, hypocritical and damning light where such cases are concerned.

One particularly heartbreaking case, brought up in Vienna, is that of Ilya Vaizblit. His son Alexander Gonorovsky travelled to Vienna as one of the members of the delegation to highlight the plight of his father.

Ilya Vaizblit is 68; he has suffered from multiple sclerosis since 1966, and in 1973 was forced to stop working. He is now paralysed, has been confined to his bed for the past 11 years, is nearly deaf and mute, and half-blind. Since 1974, he has been refused permission to leave for Israel to be reunited with his son, on the vague pretext of "state interests." Despite his condition he is still a "threat" to a superpower state. In Vienna, holding a picture of his father close to the television cam-

as, Alexander Gonorovsky asked the head of the Soviet delegation Vladimir Lomeiko: "What sort of goodwill is testified to by the holding of an old man hostage, a stake in a political game?"

The opening of the conference was accompanied by the announcement of a set of new Soviet regulations on exit visas to take effect on January 1, 1987. In the light of these new regulations, the Soviets will be judged by their actions - whether they intend to ease the process of emigration from the Soviet Union as they claim. We can but wait for the new year to see the results of the Soviet announcement, hoping that there will be a rise in the pitifully small emigration figures. More exit permits, and an end to the harassment of activists for Jewish culture in the Soviet Union alone could signify a real change in Soviet attitudes.

The writer is executive director of the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry.

Why back Sandinistas?

Eric Lee

ISRAEL has recently voted twice in the UN in support of the United States on the issue of Nicaragua. The first time was when it voted against a General Assembly resolution condemning America's refusal to heed the World Court ruling on its intervention in Nicaragua's internal affairs. The second vote was against a general condemnation of the U.S. boycott of Nicaragua. Both of these Israeli actions (prior to the current Iran-Contreras affair) which were among Shimon Peres's first steps as foreign minister, were severely denounced by some on the Israeli left.

In itself, that is not surprising. The

Israeli left, like its European counterparts, has been largely uncritical of massive human-rights violations in Nicaragua and tends to view the Sandinista dictatorship as a romantic brand of socialism. Unfortunately, most of the Israeli left, like most of the Israeli public, knows little or nothing of Central America, and the result is that Israel's policy concerning that region remains in the hands of foreign service professionals.

The leftist supporters of Ortega and his ruling clique have recently taken a new tack in their opposition to consistent Israeli government support of the U.S. in Central America. They now claim, according to recent newspaper reports, that such Israeli support is just not *realpolitik*. It will

undermine our efforts to win friends in the Third World, they say.

OF COURSE, this is not itself a convincing argument. Third World countries have been friendly and unfriendly to Israel in direct proportion to the rise and fall in oil prices. When Israel was an enthusiastic supporter of Somalia in the 1970s, it had no problem with the Third World. Today, with oil prices again at rock-bottom, even countries like Sri Lanka are willing to become our friends.

What is interesting in the left's argument is its implicit rejection of what was the traditional basis for a democratic foreign policy: morality. In an international forum like the UN, Israel's vote should reflect its

moral concerns - or so the left always believed until now.

That is to say, Israel should vote for or against the U.S. in accordance with its attitude toward the Sandinista dictatorship. And the simple fact, neglected by the left, is that the U.S. is Israel's loyal friend in the UN (and everywhere else), while the Sandinista regime is our sworn enemy.

A FRIEND who recently attended an international socialist youth meeting told me of a Sandinista speaker who rambled on for several minutes with a denunciation of "Zionism," though he probably had no idea of where Israel was on a map. The Sandinista regime, in addition to being a brutal violator of human rights and a Soviet puppet in the very heart of Latin America, is no friend of Israel. Even from the non-moral considerations of pure *realpolitik*, it makes no sense to

support the Nicaraguan communists against the U.S.

Israel's proper role in the UN is to serve as a voice of sanity in an insane world. This means opposition to dictatorships (of both the right and the left), and opposition to terrorism. It means support for that small group of Western, democratic nations, led by the U.S., in the uphill battle to introduce some common sense and order into world affairs. The belief that Israel can win the sympathy of blood-soaked Third World dictators by casting an occasional vote against the Americans is not only a foolish illusion, but is also dangerous.

Israel was right to vote against the dictatorship in Nicaragua - for moral reasons, and for reasons of *realpolitik* as well.

The writer, a member of Kibbutz Ein Dor, edits the democratic socialist quarterly, The New International Review.

READERS' LETTERS

ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I feel it is important to respond to Dr. Henry Romberg's letter of November 5 on "homosexual tendencies," wherein homosexuality is carelessly categorized negatively with adultery, thievery and cruelty.

I recognize the fact that Judaism and Halacha use harsh terminology with regard to homosexuality; nonetheless, within the psychotherapeutic community, homosexuality has been removed from the area of "mental disorder or dysfunction." In the *Diagnostic and*

Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 111, 1981), the official handbook for the mental health profession, homosexuality is considered an "alternative lifestyle." Treatment usually focuses on assisting homosexuals, as well as any other troubled person, in finding satisfactions within their particular framework, not on the assumption that these impulses are to be changed or overcome.

JOYCE ROSMAN BRENNER, D.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Netanya.

DELEGATION TO SOUTH AFRICA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - It is incredible that at a time when the whole world is moving away from relations with South Africa, a delegation of Israeli municipal officials should venture forth on a mission ostensibly to study the manner in which municipalities operate in South Africa.

Why South Africa? Why should Israeli municipalities want to study a system of government which practices institutionalized racism and is among the most oppressive in the world? How will such a study benefit the people of Israel? Does Israel

consider emulating South Africa? Will the study include government-appointed Community Councils in Soweto and other black townships, which have earned the intense hatred of and unequivocal rejection by the people whom they allegedly govern? Will the Israeli municipal officials also study the operations of the Community Council's vigilantes and the violence and mayhem they wreak on the people whom they allegedly govern?

ESTHER DEVITAN
Tel Aviv.

ASHAMED

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Why is a Jewish fringe of fundamentalist fanatics allowed to run free in the streets of Jerusalem? Why is their yeshiva allowed to remain in the heart of the Moslem quarter when they commit unspeakable acts of obscenity?

The police grant permission for a mass hysteric expression of vilification and hate, again in the heart of the Moslem quarter, when that gets out of hand, they make a few token arrests. Do we not remember other authorities in history who stood

aside and let pogroms run their course?

When a session of the Knesset is called to discuss this potentially dangerous situation, how many members deign to turn up?

Who is accountable to the majority of peace-loving citizens who were brought up to believe in a Jewish State that would be "a light unto the Nations"?

I hang my head in shame, and weep.

DOREEN GUINSBERG
Haifa.

INVESTMENT SEMINAR

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - We would like to inform your readers that, contrary to an advertisement published on Friday, November 21, in The Jerusalem Post, the AACI Jerusalem Region did not host or sponsor an invest-

ment seminar with Prudential-Bache Securities and, therefore, we can take no responsibility.

SHERWIN POMERANTZ
Jerusalem Region Chairman
AACI
Jerusalem.

PARIS MARCH

(Continued from Page One)

quet submitted his resignation yesterday morning. President Francois Mitterrand returned later from the London summit and reportedly asked Chirac to meet him last night.

Yesterday's march was called to protest the death of Algerian-born student Malik Ouesskeine, who witnesses said was severely beaten by riot police in the early hours of the morning.

The death occurred after some barricades were set up in the Latin Quarter Friday night and the authorities decided to send in a motorized police unit whose reputation for brutality is well established.

Two policemen rode each motorcycle, with those sitting behind the drivers clubbing anyone in sight. It was after such a clubbing that the young student died.

Yesterday evening the judge in charge of investigating the death said Ouesskeine had been suffering from a severe kidney ailment and that his death had nothing to do with police brutality.

That version was totally contradicted by the first-aid squad that treated Ouesskeine seconds after he was clubbed.

"He had open wounds all over his face and his skull was fractured," a

member of the squad said.

At yesterday's demonstrations, students chanted "Police - assassins!" Some carried black banners.

"Events have taken a dramatic turn," said student leader Philippe Darriulat. "It is clear that what happened is going to contribute to a hardening of the demands."

On Friday night, the government ceded to growing pressure from students and opposition politicians and withdrew the three most controversial parts of the education reform bill for consideration later.

In an appearance on French television Friday night, Education Minister Rene Monory said the government would go ahead with parliamentary debate on most of the reform bill, but that portions concerning registration fees, diplomas and orientation of students would be studied further.

The reform bill is aimed at giving greater autonomy to universities by allowing them to offer their own diplomas instead of a national one and "orient" the students towards a course of study. The bill would also double the 400-franc (about NIS 90) registration fee.

Students say the bill would make higher education elitist by allowing universities to select their students and force them into areas of study.

GOOD REPORTING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I wish to express my thanks for and appreciation of your fortnightly page on Russian Jewry. The quality of the writing is excellent, the reporting well-balanced and free from over-vehement and exaggeration. It certainly evokes our deep sympathy and interest, and I hope, will stimulate greater effort and activity on the part of your readers.

Jerusalem.

NOT KOSHER

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - The Supersol chain has advertised, with great fanfare, that all products brought from the United States for its American food festival are kosher. A number of products have no kosher endorsement of any kind and are known to American shoppers to be non-kosher.

It has been reported in The Jerusalem Post that Rabbi Simon Dolgin had said that the management had

been very cooperative in removing these products from the shelves. This is not correct as of December 1. Despite protests by a number of people in Jerusalem to the managers of the Hypercol in Givat Shani and the Agon and Nayot stores, these products are still there. This is clearly a case of simply outlasting the protesters and it is a shameful tactic.

TOBIE R. GOLDMAN
Jerusalem.

HIGH COST OF CULTURE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I find it appalling that tickets for cultural events here can cost as much as abroad, even for local talent. In fact, at times it is cheaper there (and income is usually much higher). The time has come for theatres here to explain themselves.

The Jerusalem Theatre is now showing *Shoah* - a masterpiece on one of the most important topics in

Jewish history which should be seen by all and should even be free. The actual price here is so high that a family of four would have to pay over NIS 100 - a sizeable chunk of most salaries. I cannot believe that, in a Jewish state, I am being discouraged from seeing this film and not encouraged, which is how it should be.

Jerusalem. DEBI STROCHLIC

THE RUHAMA HOME

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - My daughter has been at the Ruhama home for more than 30 years.

The children in my daughter's house have weekly courses in drama, drawing (at the Tel Aviv Museum) and music therapy. This summer they went twice to summer camps. Daily, they learn to do handicrafts

and light housework. They are well dressed, have good living conditions and are busy the whole day.

The staff in my daughter's house cares for the girls as if they were their own family. To them, I say thank you for the loving care they gave our children for all these years.

Yael Braun
Jerusalem.

TV PROGRAMMING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Why did ITV choose to broadcast a film about anthropology in New Guinea at 9:30 p.m. on November 27 and a film about Raoul Wallenberg at 10:30 p.m., when most of the population is too tired to watch? After all, a film about Raoul Wallenberg, who saved so many Hungarian Jews, is more important to us both historically and educationally.

DOV LESLY
Moshav Orot.

FINE WRITING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I am personally very happy to see that your Dvora Getzler is back writing book reviews, even though she is the Post Knesset reporter now.

Her brilliant and incisive reviews have led me to read many very fine books, in addition to enjoying her writing style.

J.E. WERSHOW
Jerusalem.

BIRTH DEFECTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - In answer to Martha Meisel's question of November 28 as to "...how much dangerous alcohol a pregnant woman could consume between Act I and Act II," I would point out that there is no proven safe level of alcohol consumption for a pregnant woman and her baby. As "little" as two bottles of beer several times a week may result in a baby who, after birth, suffers from Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE), functional disturbances, learning disabilities and organ abnormalities.

In the U.S., Alcohol Related Birth Defects are among the three leading causes of birth defects - and they are preventable.

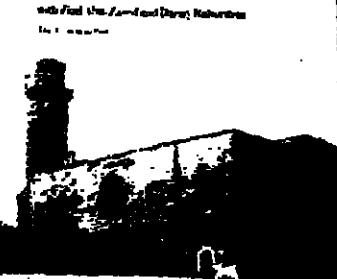
PHYLLIS COLLETT
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